



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - September 30, 2003

- ▼ ***In the West***, dry weather and record-setting warmth favor autumn fieldwork, although long-term drought remains a concern across the majority of the region.
- ▼ ***On the Plains***, cold weather and soil moisture shortages continue to limit winter wheat emergence from the ***central High Plains northward***. Meanwhile on the ***southern Plains***, scattered showers slow summer crop maturation and harvesting, but favor winter wheat germination and emergence. Throughout the ***Plains***, wheat will need additional moisture in coming weeks to ensure even establishment.
- ▼ ***In the Corn Belt***, widespread frosts and freezes were observed across the ***upper Midwest*** for the second consecutive morning and the third time in less than a week. Adverse effects on maturing summer crops are limited to a few late-maturing soybeans. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, cool, mostly dry weather favors summer crop dry down and initial corn and soybean harvesting activities.
- ▼ ***In the South***, local flash flooding and heavy showers are confined to ***Florida's peninsula***. Elsewhere, mild, dry weather is promoting summer crop maturation and harvesting.

Outlook: An unseasonably strong trough will maintain below-normal temperatures from the ***Plains to the East Coast***. Freezing temperatures are likely across the ***northern Plains and Midwest***, while light freezes and frost are possible in the ***Appalachians, Northeast, and northern Mid-Atlantic***. A series of disturbances will trigger occasional rain and snow showers across the ***Great Lakes***. Meanwhile, a stalled frontal boundary will provide the focus for very heavy rain in ***central and southern Florida***. Elsewhere, dry, warm weather will persist in the ***West***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 5-9 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes***. Wetter-than-normal conditions are also expected from the ***Pacific Northwest and northern California*** eastward across the ***Rockies into the central Plains***. Drier-than-normal conditions are anticipated only for the ***northern Plains***. Below-normal temperatures are forecast to persist from the ***Mississippi Valley to the East Coast***, while above-normal temperatures persist in the ***West***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>